(e) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution has received a suggestion from Central Vigilance Commissioner for adding a specific provision, by way of a new article in the Chapter on Fundamental Rights entitling every citizen to corruption free service from every organization of the State, which will include not only the Government Departments of the Centre and the State but also public sector enterprises and other organizations controlled by the Government.

(c) to (e) The suggestion received from the Central Vigilance Commissioner is at present under the consideration of the Commission. The Government will formulate its views on the suggestion only after receipt of the recommendations of the Commission, if any.

Reservation of Seats in Legislature for Women

3197. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(f) whether Government have failed to bring about a consensus about the Bill aimed at providing for reservation of seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for women despite assurances to pass such a legislation in the election manifestoes of different parties issued on the eve of last general elections to the Lok Sabha;

(g) if so, the efforts so far made in this direction and the success, achieved in the matter; and

(h) by when the legislation with or without modifications is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND

COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The Constitution (Eighty-fifth Amendment) Bill, 1999, seeking to provide for reservation of seats for women in the Legislatures was introduced in the 13th Lok Sabha on 23.12.1999 and is pending for consideration and passing in that House. The earlier Bill introduced in 1996 on this subject had lapsed. Ever since the present Bill was introduced, the Government has made constant endeavours to bring about a consensus among all political parties. The Bill is a revolutionary measure which may have vital impact on the polity of the nation. As such, the effort of the Government so far has been to strive for complete consensus on the issue. It is, therefore, for all the political parties^groups to cooperate with the Government in preparing ground to ensure smooth passage of the Bill either with or without modifications.

Withdrawal of Model Code of Conduct for Elections

† 3198. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

SHRI K.M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the occasion and the time when the Model Code of Conduct for election was withdrawn along with the reasons therefor;

(b) what was the constitutional and legal validity of the said Model Code of Conduct for elections;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said Code of Conduct was not applicable on the actions of day-to-day functioning of various autonomous and Government organisations including PSUs and subordinate bodies, etc; and

(d) if so, whether it was unreasonable and invalid to make it applicable for such actions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.